

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100010055-7

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

ITEM NO: 7 DATE: 12 JAN 74

SUBJECT: TUNISIA-LIBYA DECLARATION OF UNION

TUNISIA AND LIBYA HAVE SIGNED A DECLARATION TO UNITE THEIR TWO COUNTRIES INTO ONE REPUBLIC WITH A SINGLE PRESIDENT. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BROADCAST OVER THE LIBYAN RADIO SAID THE NEW STATE WILL BE CALLED THE ISLAMIC ARAB REPUBLIC AND THAT A PLEBISCITE ON UNION WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 30. TUNIS ALSO BROADCAST THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO UNITE, BUT A TEXT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY PROVE TO BE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO POPULAR RATIFICATION, RATHER THAN A DECLARATION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE UNION. A TIMETABLE FOR ESTABLISHING THE NEW REPUBLIC

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RELEASING OFFICER
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EDITIONS

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WAS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE TRIPOLI BROADCAST. PRESIDENT GADHAFI ARRIVED IN TUNISIA YESTERDAY BUT LOCAL PRESS CHARACTERIZED HIS ARRIVAL AS A "PRIVATE VISIT." IN DECEMBER 1972, WHEN GADHAFI PROPOSED IMMEDIATE UNION WITH TUNISIA, BOURGUIBA BLUNTLY REJECTED THE LIBYAN PROPOSAL AND CONCLUDED ONLY THAT ARAB UNITY WAS A REMOTE GOAL TO BE ACHIEVED AFTER YEARS OF COOPERATION.

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(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV AND TIC)

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